

Wasatch Wave, April 6, 1889.
Ibid.



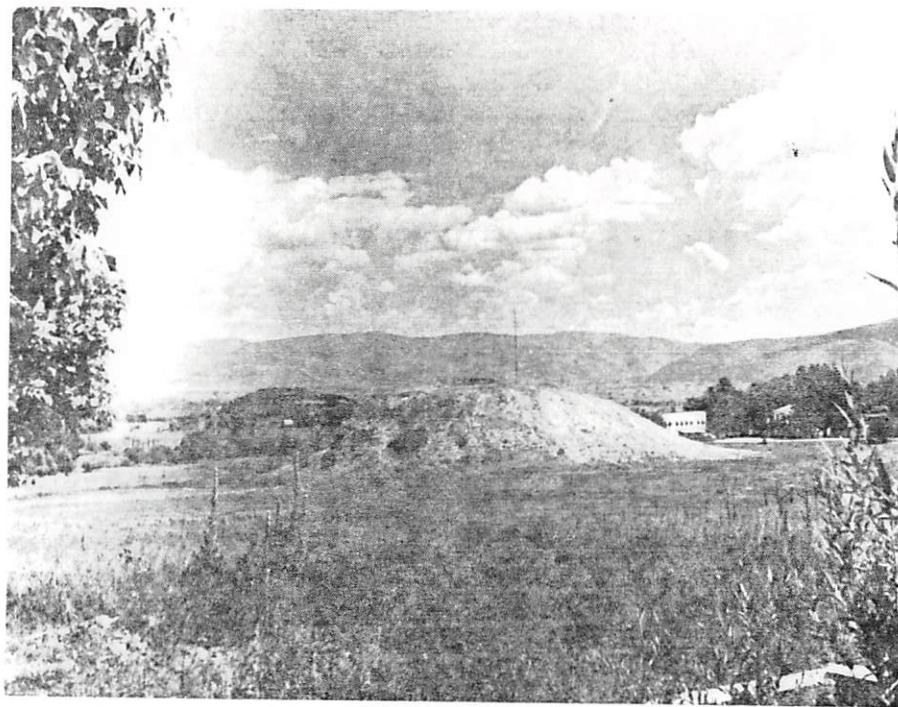
Schneiter's Hot Pots, Midway
Formerly Ritter's Hot Pots

HOT POT RESORTS

Long before white men settled Midway the Ute Indians roamed the valley. They had seen and knew about the strange lime rock mounds and were mystified by the hot water and rising vapor. Mark Smith and Jesse McCarrell in 1859 were the first white men on record to explore the rock craters later known as the Hot Pots.

The larger group of hot pots were located in the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon and extend east from there about two miles. The water in these pots varies in temperature from seventy degrees to 112 degrees, and almost every spring the water is a different temperature. These waters are heavily impregnated with lime and some of the cone shaped pots have sealed themselves shut. Due to their heat and the lime and mineral deposits, these pools have been used and advertised as health pools.

The following is taken from "S. H. Epperson, Pioneer," a journal written by Simon S. Epperson: "The hot pots are mostly cone shaped and of many different sizes, about twenty of them are filled with water which ran over the top. Some are fifteen feet in depth and some appear to be bottomless. The cone of the largest is two hundred feet in diameter and one hundred feet high. They are formed by the constant flow of the lime water. A weight was lowered in the large cone, and no bottom was



The Big Hot Pot at Midway. The "pot" was formed as boiling lime water bubbled over the edge. The bottom of the pool of boiling water has not been found, though many have tried. The water from the pot is now used in pools at the Homestead resort.

found at one hundred and fifty feet." Of the big pot it has been said that water used to run over the top in the spring of the year and down the sides onto the fields.

"In one of the dry craters," continued the Journal, "called Snake Creek Den, between four and five hundred rattlesnakes were killed in a single day. In the spring they appeared on the outside of the crater and formed into groups that would fill a bushel basket. They would tie themselves into knots with their heads sticking out in all directions for protection. The country around these pots is apparently hollow as indicated by sounds caused by rumbling wheels passing over it."

These pots were taken up as homestead grounds in 1875, by Samuel Thompson, Tom Mantle and Hyrum Shelton. On March 10, 1888 Andrew Luke and John Busby purchased the pots for \$600 and renamed the area Luke's Hot Pots.

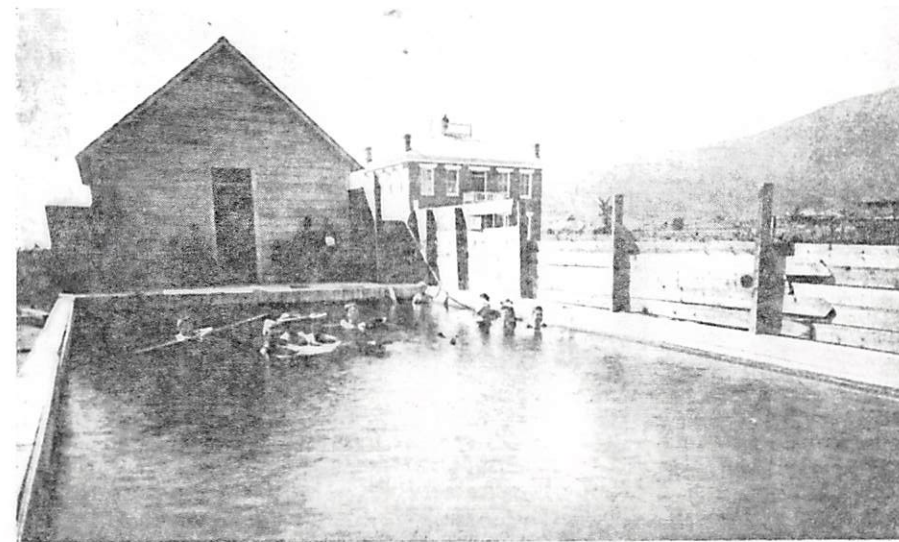
Originally, Luke's Hot Pots was paid for with an Indian saddle horse and a secondhand sewing machine. It later sold for more than \$100,000.

In 1878 Simon Schneitter bought from Samuel Thompson, and with a few chickens and cows started to farm his ground. When Park City

was developed into a mining town and Provo was settled, people heard of the hot pots and would go to Schneitter's in their wagons to see these unusual craters. This started Mr. Schneitter thinking about a resort. In 1886 a two story brick hotel and a swimming pool were started. The hotel, still in use, was then known as "The Virginia House." A hole was drilled at the base of the large hot pot and the water was piped to the pool. "Schneitter's Hot Pots" were known throughout the entire mountain area. The most discriminating people praised the wonderful food prepared under the direction of Mrs. Fannie Schneitter. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schneitter were noted for their warmth and hospitality. Thousands of people thronged to the resort throughout the year.

The resort was then either leased or rented to Thomas Monks before Jacob Schneitter bought it from his father. Frank Monks writes of his father's operation:

"Father ran the resort for some seven years and as I remember the conversation in those early days, they drew crowds then creating horse races. Some bathing helped to hold interest too. They had the two enclosed swimming pools constructed entirely of lumber. One was smaller than the other and furnished the participating swimmers a rather hot bath, as it was much warmer than the larger one. The two story brick building which seemed to be the outstanding building in those days was equipped to sleep the guests. There were twelve rooms. In connection with this they had a lumber dining room of fair size, and a kitchen. Monk's fried chicken was very well known in Salt Lake City and other nearby towns. The horse and buggy was the means of transportation so their



A very early picture of Schneitter's Hot Pots resort, now The Homestead, showing the swimming pool and bathhouse.

trade extended to a rather small area. They served regular meals and home-made ice cream and cake. When they needed music, it was furnished by a brass band led by Mr. Robert Krebs, who lived nearby."

Following Tom Monk's operation the resort was taken over by W. W. Ritter and Peter Kurellor, known as Dutch Pete, who ran it for three or four years before the Schneitter family took over again.

David N. Murdock owned a resort at the mouth of Pine Canyon about 1894 or '95, called "The Warm Lands." From his journal we read:

"At this resort there was a big plunge bath, a smaller private bath, and eight good dressing rooms, a large dance hall and eating places. Also living quarters, kitchen, dining room and bedrooms. All were built under one big roof. However, the dance hall had windows to keep the dancers cool and comfortable. An orchestra was kept there during the summer months. Dances were held each week and on holidays. The grounds were prepared for ball games, horse races, croquet and other games, with swings and other play places for the youngsters. A 'bus' ran from Provo for special celebrations. Perhaps the biggest crowd came out to see a big balloon ascend, held on the 4th of July."

The balloon was filled by spreading the silk over a fire in an effort to catch the smoke and gases. On the particular day this mentions the silk of the balloon caught fire and of course failed in its attempt to become airborne.

The journal continues: "The place had nice lawns and trees, but a big bowery was built to accommodate the crowds that came to picnic."

There were more bath houses in the area, such as Fred Buhler's which was more centrally located and used by the townspeople as a place for baptisms. These baptisms were carried on for new members and also for those whose records were lost or destroyed. Sometimes this work was carried throughout the entire day. The water in this bath was very hot and was remembered by those using it for a long time. Fred Buhler, Jr., son of the original owner constructed the present bathhouse and built it further down the hill toward the road. The building that stands is larger and the water that feeds this pool had been cooled until now it is quite comfortable. The water was piped from the old bathhouse down to the new.

Still standing is the old Joseph Galli home and one-half mile to the west the tiny bathhouse where Mr. Galli and his wife would teach children of the community to swim. The patient couple were responsible for instructing many Midway youngsters in the sport, and the warm waters of their spring-fed pool became a delightful playground for local boys and girls.

In 1947 Luke's Hot Pots was sold to Joe B. Erwin for \$100,000. Erwin was one of the first to envision Heber Valley as a national resort area, drawing thousands of visitors and greatly benefiting the economy of Wasatch County. He added a new outside swimming pool to the

resort, but eventually his far-sighted plans went awry and five years after he purchased it, Luke's Hot Pots were once again in the hands of John Luke.

In 1953 Luke deeded his resort to Jay, Clyde and Charles DeGraff who made some improvements on the property. Until 1955, when it was deeded back to Mr. Luke, the resort was known as the Diamond D. Also in 1955 Luke transferred the property to his wife Alada, who sold it the following year to Harold Calder and Clifford W. Stubbs. Late in 1956 Calder transferred his interest to Stubbs. A year later Mr. Stubbs sold the resort to Dr. Willard Draper and Eugene Payne who promptly christened it the Mountain Spa.

Under the ownership of Draper and Payne great changes were made. The entire main building was renovated, a brick facade added and the roof completely tiled. Landscaping of the property was begun in earnest, the dining room was remodeled and new equipment added. Roller-skating on the huge dance floor became a popular pastime. A small but picturesque hotel was opened and renovated. Horses were brought in to create added interest at the resort.

In spite of the untimely death of Dr. Draper in 1958 the Mountain Spa continued to gain interest. Still owned and operated by Payne,



An aerial view of the Midway area with the Mt. Spa resort in the foreground. This is another of the county's popular resort spots.

it has become a popular spot for banquets, swimming and skating parties and future plans call for further expansion.

Schneitters Hot Pots became The Homestead early in 1952 when Ferrin W. Whitaker, his brothers Berlin and Scott and a son-in-law, Del Wallengren, moved to Midway from southern California to take ownership from the Schneitter family. A complete architectural face-lifting gave a new look to the main building. The east wall of the dining room was opened with windows looking out over the valley and kitchen facilities expanded when a new pantry was added. The lobby and fountain were redecorated and a wing furnished to house rest rooms and a check-in room for swimmers.

The old hotel was renovated as was a three-room milk house to the south, providing additional space for overnight guests. Since then the Ranch House and Farm House have been constructed bringing the total number of hotel rooms to 20.

Swimming, horseback riding, fishing in a stocked pond, shuffleboard and other lawn games were made available to visitors. Through continual enlarging, planting and landscaping, this new resort becomes a drawing card for the county. Chicken and steak dinners are still being served and the luster of this vacation spot remains undimmed through 80 years of resort business in Wasatch County. It is one of Utah's best resorts.

Schnitter's Hot Pot Resort

THE BEST TIME YOU EVER HAD!

Featuring

Chicken Dinners

Trout Dinners

Swimming in Pure Water

Indoor and Outdoor Pools

Dancing

Parties

MIDWAY, UTAH

1934 Wasatch

Fair book 1932

Schneitter's Hot Pots

GOOD EATS, GOOD ROOMS,

FINE SWIMMING AND DANCING

SPRING CHICKEN DINNERS OUR SPECIALTY

For Parties, None Too Large and None Too Small.

Soda Fountain Service, Second to None.

By Train to Heber City,

Auto Roads Are Good By Parley's Canyon

Alpine Pass or Provo Canyon.

LARGE NEW DINING ROOM,
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE POOLS,

All Best In The West.

S. J. Schneitter & Family, Prop's.

Midway, Wasatch County, Utah.

Phone 237-R, 5 Heber City.

SIMON JABEZ SCHNEITTER
AND FANNIE MANHART
MILES SCHNEITTER



Simon Jabez Schneitter, born June 30, 1860, Wimmer, Bern, Switzerland, son of Simon Schneitter and Marie Louise Dintheer Schneitter. Married Velate Manhart, 1898. Married Fannie Manhart Miles 1903. Died Sept. 28, 1938, in Midway.

Velate Manhart, daughter of Truelove A. Manhart and Mary Ann Manhart. Married Simon Jabez (Jake) Schneitter 1898. Died 1902.

Fannie Manhart Miles, born Sept. 10, 1874 at Morgan, Utah, daughter of Truelove A. Manhart and Mary Ann Robinson Manhart. Married William Walter Miles, later Simon Jabez Schneitter in 1903. Died Sept. 1, 1950, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

When Simon was three years old he came to Salt Lake City with his parents as converts to the Latter-day Saint Church. In 1864 they moved to Provo Valley settling in Mound City later called Midway.

Simon attended school in Midway. After reaching young manhood he engaged in farming, mining and the hotel and resort

business. In 1886, his family acquired the ground on which is found the Natural Crater formation which came to be known as "The Hot Pots." He and Mrs. Fannie Schneitter operated the resort until his death, after which Mrs. Schneitter owned it until her death in 1950.

Before settling in Midway after his marriage, Simon was in business in Ouray, Colorado and Eureka, Utah. He was prominent in the business, fraternal and civic affairs of Eureka while he and his family lived there.

In 1898 he married Velate Manhart. She died following the birth of their second child. In 1903 he married Velate's sister, Fannie Manhart Miles.

Mrs. Fannie Schneitter was active in the Midway Second Ward Relief Society and was a prominent member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. She was a famous cook and a beloved hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneitter, besides rearing their own family, raised two children of Mr. Schneitter's from his first marriage, a daughter of Mrs. Schneitters by her first marriage, a niece Annie Cox, a nephew Howard Baker, children of a sister of Mrs. Schneitter. All of the children shared equally in the kind and loving support and guidance that the parents gave consistent with their ability and means.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneitter were known throughout the west for their hospitality and excellent food. They gave pleasure and comfort to thousands of friends and patrons at the well established resort, "Schneitter's Hot Pots."

Children:

Simon Jabez Schneitter and Velate Manhart: Venus V., Noble J.

William Walter Miles and Fannie Manhart Miles: Mamie.

Simon Jabez Schneitter and Fannie Manhart Miles:

Fannie Bell,

Ruth;

Emery Edwin (Tom);

First boy died in infancy.

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SIMON AND MARIA BAMBERGER SCHNEITTER

Simon Schneitter was born July 6, 1828, in Wimms, Bern, Switzerland.

Maria Louisa Dintheer Bamberger, who became his wife, was born April 17, 1821, in Erlen, Bern, Switzerland. Maria Bamberger had a daughter by her first husband, Maria Louisa, born July 24, 1853, in Grover, Bern, Switzerland.

To Simon and Maria was born a son, Simon Jabez, on June 30, 1860 in Wimms, Bern, Switzerland.

Simon was a watchmaker by trade, owning his own shop. His wife worked with him. He made the watches and she made the cases.

When the Latter-day Saints missionaries came to their home in about 1862, they were welcomed and often stayed with them. Before long the message the missionaries brought was accepted by their hosts.

Simon and Maria sold their business and made preparations to go to America. With their two children they left Switzerland for Liverpool, England. The ship *Antartic*, left Liverpool on May 23, 1863 with 486 immigrants. The ship docked at Castle Garden, New York, on Friday, July 10, 1863. From Castle Garden they went to Albany, Niagara Falls, Detroit, Chicago, Quincy and St. Joseph, Mo. Then by steamboat up the Missouri River to Florence, Neb., where they outfitted themselves with wagon, ox team and supplies for their trek across the plains. They left Florence, Neb., July 25, 1863, in the John R. Murdock Company, arriving in Salt Lake Valley, Sept. 9, 1863.

A few weeks after their arrival in the Valley they learned they were to go to Midway to join other Swiss families who had already settled there. It was late in the fall when they started. Cold weather and snow made it impossible to go through the mountains, so they camped on Provo Bench until the snow had melted the following spring and the wagons could be driven through the canyon.

On their arrival in Midway they were greeted by other Swiss families. They felt at home in this beautiful valley as it reminded them of Switzerland, surrounded as it was, by mountains much like their homeland.

They settled on several acres of land on which was one large hot pot and several small ones. A log house was built in Snake

Creek Canyon which stood until about 1900 when it was destroyed by fire.

The land had to be cleared of sage brush so that crops could be planted. Although farming was entirely new to them, they soon learned to cultivate the land. It was not long before crops were growing all around the hot pots. Cattle and chickens were added and soon they were making their living off the land.

When Park City had developed into a mining town and Provo had been settled, people heard of the hot pots and would go over in their wagons to see them. It was then that they dreamed of building a hotel and resort. In 1886 a two-story brick hotel and a swimming pool was started. The hotel, still in use, is now known as the "Virginia House." A hole was drilled at the base of the large hot pot and the water was piped to the pool. It became a very popular bathing resort. Visitors came from many parts of the United States to spend their vacation and to bathe in the invigorating mineral water.

Maria Louisa Schneitter died Sept. 4, 1893 and Simon Schneitter died Sept. 17, 1900. After their death, their son, Simon Jabez, his wife and family operated the Hot Pot Resort. His family operated it until 1951 when it was sold to the Whitaker Brothers, the present owners. Thus ended 87 years of ownership by the Schneitter family.

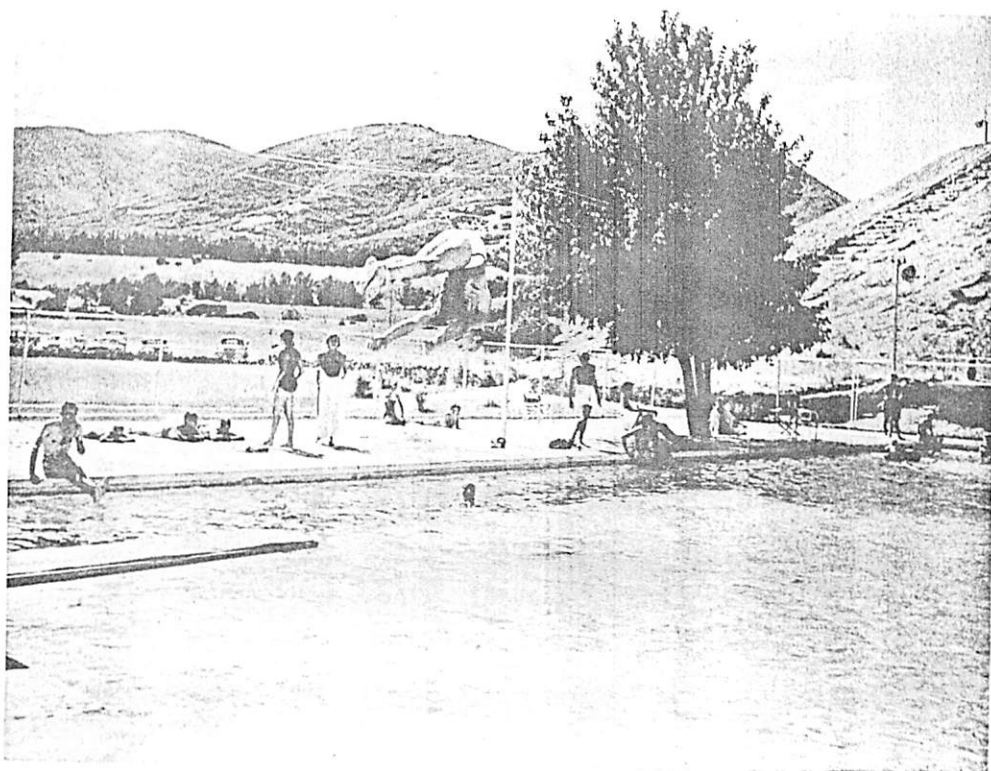
Their daughter Maria Louisa was ten years old when they found their new home in Midway. She helped her step-father clear the land, plant and harvest the crops. Every Friday, during the spring, summer and fall, she and her step-father drove to Salt Lake City with a wagon load of butter, eggs and vegetables. Some of the most prominent people in Salt Lake City were their regular customers. Mrs. Conrad Wilkinson who operated a millinery shop was one of their regular customers. On one of her trips she mentioned to Mrs. Wilkinson that she would like to stay in Salt Lake as she thought there were more advantages in the city for a young girl. She stayed in her home, attending school, until Mrs. Wilkinson's health compelled her to close the shop. Maria Louisa then went to live in the home of Dr. Joseph Benedict. She married Richard Alfred Watts in 1882 and raised a family of seven children, six sons and one daughter, all of them living when she passed away July 29, 1932, in Salt Lake City at the age of 79.

for Wasatch County is Bates Reservoir on the upper Provo River. All of these projects figure significantly into Wasatch County's recreational and tourist future.

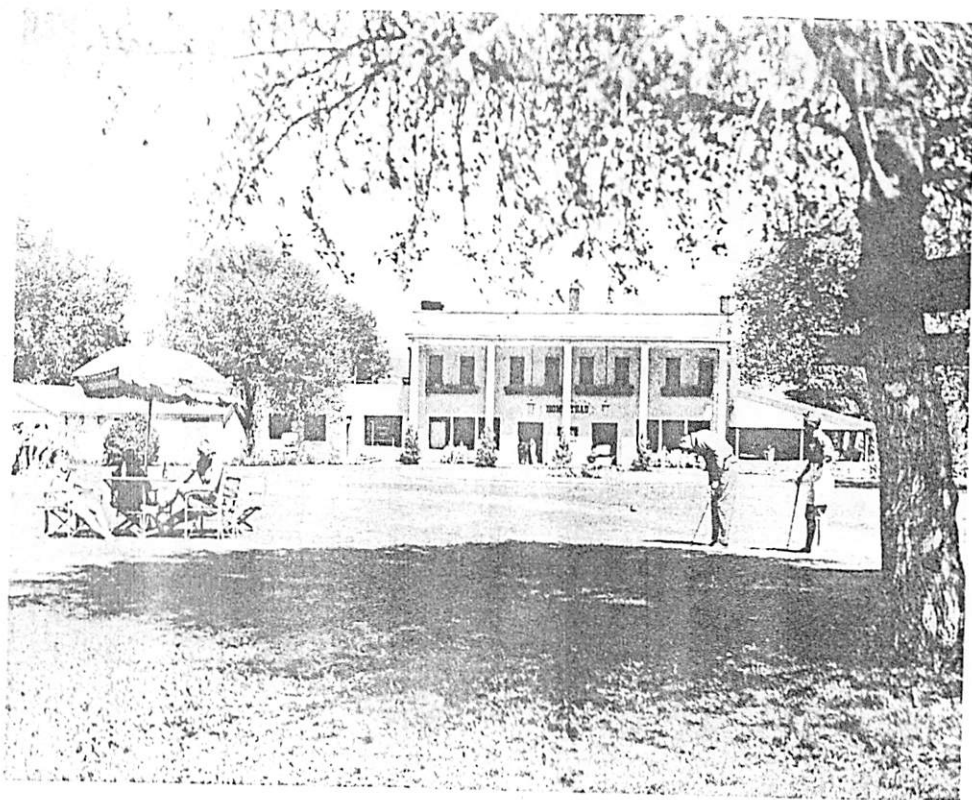
Resorts

The Homestead is a good example of the potential that exists in Wasatch County's recreation and tourist industry. A popular resort has been built around natural hot springs and natural scenic beauty of the area. A reported 50,000 to 75,000 persons per year visit the Homestead to enjoy swimming, horseback riding, hiking, and relaxing. Although this has been just a summer operation, it can become a year around resort if a winter sports area were developed.

Another instance in which the Valley's natural hot springs and scenic beauty has been put to work is the Mountain Spaa Resort. It also has possibilities for expansion if winter sports become an attraction and year around operation is maintained.



Swimming at The Homestead



Resorts such as The Homestead add to Heber Valley's appeal to tourists and vacationers during summer and fall seasons

State Park Development

The region is being considered in the plans of the State Park and Recreation Committee to develop a state park in the mountains between Alta and Brighton, Park City and Heber. This proposed park has been termed "one of Utah's outstanding scenic spots and one of the most important in the state's system because of its proximity to the state's population centers. When developed, the park will be both a summer and winter recreation area and will be an important hunting and fishing ground.

Contributing to the recreational future of Wasatch County is the recently completed road from Heber Valley to the famed Brighton winter sports area by way of Guardsman Pass (See map, page 20.) The road opens up a previously inaccessible scenic area so that now a complete scenic loop drive from Salt Lake City to Timpanogos Cave to Heber Valley to Brighton and back to Salt Lake can be made.